MARVEL COMICS

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JUL
RATED PA

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MACKIE
PICCIOTTO
GURU-eFX

DANNY KETCH GHOST RIDER

MARVEL

PARENTAL ADVISORY

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY.

GHOST RIDER ALMOST NEVER GETS ANGRY.

TONIGHT, ANGER AND VENGEANCE ARE BURNING WITHIN HIS SOULLESS BODY.

BUT THIS ANGER IS SEEPING THROUGH FROM HIS HOST.

FROM DANNY KETCH.

VROOOM

FEAR THE DARK

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SKREEEE

FOR THE LAST TIME...

ACK!

THUNK

...WE WANT BLACKOUT!

WE...DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS...I SWEAR!

EVER SINCE HE AND DEATHWATCH DISAPPEARED... WE'VE BEEN MASTERLESS... ON OUR OWN.

YOU LIE!

WE WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO EXPERIENCE THE MERCIFUL AGONY OF MY PENANCE STARE!

WE WILL SQUEEZE THE LIFE OUT OF YOU ONE BY ONE UNTIL YOU TELL US WHAT I NEED TO KNOW TO FIND BLACKOUT AND THE GIRL!

I DON'T-- ACK!

CAN'T... BREATHE...

ENOUGH!

WHOMP

YOU?!

YOU'RE IN *MY* CEMETERY... I'M THE *CARETAKER*... WHO'D YOU EXPECT TO BE STUPID ENOUGH TO SMACK SOME SENSE INTO YOU?

ANYWAY... YOU DO *NOT* WANT TO DO THIS.

YOU DON'T WANT TO *KILL*... NOT EVEN THESE PAJAMA-WEARING MORONS...AND YOU DO *NOT* WANT TO FIGHT ME.

THEY ONCE WORKED WITH *BLACKOUT.*

HE HAS THE GIRL... *STACY.*

THEY CAN LEAD ME TO--

NO. THEY CAN'T.

YOU'RE BEING EMOTIONAL.

DID YOU HEAR THAT *"WE"* STUFF COMING FROM YOUR MOUTH? THEY'RE NOT EVEN *YOUR* EMOTIONS.

I NEED TO TALK TO THE KID.

YOU THREE...GET OUT OF HERE AND TRADE IN THOSE PAJAMAS OF YOURS FOR SOMETHING LESS STUPID LOOKING AND DANGEROUS.

GO. *NOW!*

FWOOSH

YOU LET THEM GO?!

WHY THE--?

KID. I WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT SKULL-FACE BEING PISSED OFF AT ME. HOW THREATENED DO YOU THINK I FEEL RIGHT NOW?

TAKE A BREATH, AND TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW.

BLACKOUT... HE TOOK STACY! I'VE GOT TO FIND HER BEFORE HE...

IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HER...IF HE... I'LL KILL--

KID!

YOU NEED TO GET A GRIP!

I'LL HELP YOU FIND YOUR GIRLFRIEND, BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING MORE RIGHT NOW. THERE'S AN OVERLAP OF EMOTIONS AND CONTROL BETWEEN YOU AND THE RIDER.

WE'VE GOT TO--

BRRRRNG

BLAZE? I CAN'T--WHAT? WHEN?

I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN.

THAT WAS BLAZE.

HIS WIFE AND KIDS WERE KIDNAPPED. I'LL BET YOU BLACKOUT'S BEHIND IT.

I'M HEADING UPSTATE TO RHINEBECK TO HELP HIM. WANT A RIDE?

I'LL MEET YOU THERE.

HOW?

I'VE GOT MY WAYS.

AT THAT MOMENT...

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, MY *EMISSARY?*

BLACKOUT AND SCARECROW ARE PERFORMING AS PLANNED, *MASTER.*

THE CAPTIVES?

THEY ARE SAFELY HIDDEN AWAY FROM ONE AND ALL.

FROM *ME?*

THE TEMPTATION WOULD BE TOO GREAT FOR YOUR APPETITES.

I EXIST TO SERVE YOUR BEST INTERESTS ONLY.

INDEED, YOU DO.

WE NEED OUR FOUR LITTLE PAWNS FOR NOW... AND MY HUNGER WOULD DRIVE ME TO DO SOMETHING REGRETTABLE.

ALL CAN WAIT UNTIL *AFTER.*

AND THEN...I'LL *FEAST!*

ELSEWHERE...

I'M GLAD THE KIDS WERE ABLE TO CALM DOWN ENOUGH TO FALL ASLEEP, ROXANNE.

STACY, YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW TERRIFYING IT WAS...THEY'RE EXHAUSTED.

WHEN SCARECROW SHOWED UP...THE FEAR...IT WAS OVERWHELMING...I COULDN'T BREATHE... THOUGHT MY HEART WAS GOING TO EXPLODE.

WE BLACKED OUT...AND WOKE UP HERE.

YEAH... BLACKOUT...

I JUST DON'T GET IT.

YOU WERE TARGETED BY SCARECROW...ME, BLACKOUT.

BOTH OF THEM ARE SERIAL KILLERS WITH HIGH BODY COUNTS... AND YET HERE WE ARE.

AND NEITHER ONE OF THEM IS WHAT I WOULD CALL A BRAIN TRUST, SO...

...WHO IS BEHIND THIS?

AND WHY US?

IT MAKES NO SENSE. BEFORE WE GOT TOSSED IN THIS CELL...YOU AND I NEVER MET.

RHINEBECK, NY.

A QUIET VILLAGE IN NEW YORK'S HUDSON RIVER VALLEY.

A PLACE OF FINE RESTAURANTS, SMALL SHOPS AND TOURISTS... ALWAYS TOURISTS.

TONIGHT, IT IS A PLACE OF...

...FEAR AND DARKNESS.

COMICS

WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON OUT THERE?!

I'M NOT SURE *WHAT* THIS IS, BUT...I'VE GOT A *BAD* FEELING ABOUT IT.

EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE FINE, FOLKS.

WE'RE JUST GOING TO MOVE TO THE BACK OF THE STORE UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE AND GIVE US THE ALL CLEAR!

THIS IS MORE POWER THAN I THOUGHT IMAGINABLE, SCARECROW.

I CAN FEEL MY STRENGTH GROWING WITH EVERY BIT OF LIGHT I ABSORB.

AND THE FEAR...IT'S WASHING OVER ME IN WAVES... LIKE THE LYE SOAP MY MOTHER WOULD USE TO SCRUB, SCRUB, SCRUB ME WHEN I WAS GROWING UP HERE.

SO, WHAT SAY WE HUNT AND PLAY UNTIL OUR ASSIGNED QUARRIES APPEAR?

SO MUCH FEAR TO BATHE IN. IF ONLY MY MOMMY WAS STILL ALIVE TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO!

IT'S OVERWHELMING MY SENSES WITH JOY, BLACKOUT.

AH...THEY HAVE ARRIVED ALREADY.

ONE OF THEM IS SO FILLED WITH FEAR, IT'S CRYING OUT OVER ALL THE REST. IT WILL BE A FEAST TO RELEASE IT.

AT THE EDGE OF TOWN...

THIS IS NEW.

I'M GUESSING BLACKOUT IS BEHIND IT, BUT HE'S NEVER--

YEAH... YOU'RE A REGULAR SHERLOCK HOLMES...

BUT I'M NOT SEEING A MAGNIFYING GLASS.

-PTOOEY-

YOU JUST GOING TO STARE INTO THE DARKNESS? OR ARE WE GOING TO GO KICK SOME BUTT?

HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET HERE SO FAST? I BROKE EVERY SPEED LIMIT RIDING UP FROM THE CITY AND--

YEAH...I ONLY *RIDE* WHEN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY...

BUT... IF YOU'RE A CERTAIN TYPE OF PERSON... AND KNOW THE WAY...

...ALL GRAVEYARDS ARE CONNECTED.

REALLY? YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SHOW ME--

NO...I DON'T *HAVE* TO...BUT MAYBE LATER.

NOW LET'S GO FIND BLAZE...

...AND START KICKING SOME ASS.

I CAN'T SEE A THING, BUT I KNOW BLAZE IS NEARBY.

I JUST DO.

REALLY? YOU *KNOW*? HOW?

INTERESTING. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE A SIT-DOWN AND TALK AT SOME POINT.

NO, WE DON'T *HAVE* TO, BUT MAYBE LAT--

UGH!

WHAT THE--?!

KID, THE GUY'S ALIVE, BUT WITH ALL THIS BLOOD... WHY HAVEN'T YOU TRANSFORMED?

I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON HERE.

I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD FIGHT THEM.

THEY'RE MORE AFRAID THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

NOT SURE THEY'RE GOING TO GIVE US A CHOICE.

BRAKOOM

GOOD CALL, DAN.

THEY'RE JUST NORMAL PEOPLE, BUT THEY'RE TERRIFIED BEYOND BELIEF.

SCARECROW?

YUP...AND THE GUY AT YOUR FEET PROBABLY HURT HIMSELF. THAT'S WHY YOUR HEAD'S NOT ON FIRE RIGHT NOW.

I'M STRUGGLING KEEPING IT TOGETHER RIGHT NOW.

ROXANNE AND THE KIDS... I'VE GOT TO FIND THEM... I'VE--

WE'LL FIND THEM, JOHNNY.

THIS TOWN IS A MESS.

PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES, HURTING THEMSELVES.

AND SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL, WE'VE GOT TWO CRAZED SERIAL KILLERS ON THE LOOSE.

I THINK YOU TWO CAN HANDLE BLACKOUT AND SCARECROW ON YOUR OWN.

I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO THE GRAVEYARD...SEE IF I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT ELSE IS BEHIND ALL THIS.

THERE IS SOMETHING... OR SOMEONE MORE.

HE'S AN ODD GUY.

AREN'T WE ALL?

POINT TAKEN.

I WISH I HAD MY BIKE, BUT I COULDN'T RISK IT IN THE DARK.

I KNOW... I FEEL KIND OF NAKED WITHOUT MINE TOO.

THIS IS THE WORK OF--

--BLACKOUT!

THE BIKE...THE MEDALLION...

INNOCENT BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED! THERE WILL BE--

FWOOSH

...VENGEANCE!

GET ON.

WE RIDE.

YOU KNOW...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE...I WISH I HAD A--

--HELMET!

IN THE BACKROOM OF M COMICS...

WE'LL BE SAFE IN HERE.

ARE YOU SURE THAT NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH ALL OF THIS, JOHN?

I'M-- I'M SO... SCARED!

OH... YES, YOU ARE...I CAN TASTE YOUR FEAR ALL WRAPPED UP AND READY FOR ME TO RELEASE IT!

N-N-NO... WHAT IS HAPPENING? WHAT--?

KTASH

PRETTY LITTLE PACKAGES.

HIDDEN AWAY.

LIKE MOMMY DID.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

I HAD TO WORK, WORK, WORK... FIND THEM...OPEN THEM...OR BE PUNISHED.

NO PUNISHMENT FOR LITTLE EBENEZER TONIGHT, MOMMY!

CAAAAAW!

WHAT IS IT, MY PRETTY?

CAAAWW!

TCHK

ACK!

OOPH!

NO!

NOOOOOOO!

I HAVE TO OPEN MY PRESENTS...

...OR I'LL BE PUNISHED!

OOPH!

YOU WILL BE PUNISHED.

YOU WILL ENDLESSLY FEEL THE PAIN OF THOSE YOU HAVE HURT.

OOOOH! THAT SOUNDS *TASTY!*

EVEN BETTER THAN OPENING MOMMY'S PRESENTS!

CAN WE WAIT AND TRY TO GET A STRAIGHT ANSWER OUT OF HIM ABOUT WHERE ROXANNE AND THE KIDS ARE? IF THEY'RE SAFE?

HA!

NO ONE IS SAFE ANYMORE!

I AM GOING TO BRING YOU TO *THE MASTER* AND BARGAIN WITH HIM. HE WILL ALLOW ME TO PLAY WITH YOUR PRECIOUS WIFE AND CHILDREN--

--BEFORE *HE* HAS HIS WAY WITH THEM.

I'LL PRESENT IT AS *TENDERIZING.*

YOU WILL FEEL THE PAIN OF--

SERIOUSLY... I CAN HARDLY WAIT, BUT--

--I SENSE SOMETHING.

I SENSE *SOMEONE* ELSE.

SOMEONE *YUMMY.*

NOOOO!

THE FEAR WITHIN...IT'S TASTIER THAN ANYTHING I'VE EVER CONSUMED.

I'M QUIVERING WITH ANTICIPATION AT THE PROSPECT OF PEELING YOU OPEN.

NOOOO!

NO! WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

SO MUCH PAIN!

SO MUCH EMPTINESS!

I HAVE TO GET OUT!

I HAVE TO ESCAPE!

THIS IS ALMOST *TOO* EASY.

I'LL TRY MY LUCK WITH G.R. AGAIN ONCE SCARECROW SOFTENS HIM UP.

THE DEAL WAS TO BRING YOU TO THE MASTER *ALIVE*, BUT...

...WHAT HARM COULD THERE BE IN HAVING A LITTLE *TASTE*?

TASTE...

...THIS!

NO.

KTOOM

NOOOO!

NOT MY FACE!

NOT AGAIN!

HUGGGGPH!

NOT BAD, BLAZE.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DONE FOR.

BUT I THINK THE KID IS IN TROUBLE.

KTOOM

ARGH!

WHAT HAPPENED THERE?

DAN.

HE WAS AWARE OF THE EMPTINESS.

WHAT?

THAT CAN'T HAPPEN.

IT DID.

SOMETHING IS WRONG.

CAN WE FIGURE OUT THE SUPERNATURAL CRAP LATER PLEASE?

I'VE GOT TO FIND MY WIFE AND KIDS *NOW.*

YEAH... RIGHT...I'VE GOT A LEAD, AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND THIS AND...

...WHERE WE NEED TO GO--

WHAT--?

URGH!

LET THE FEAR FLOW OUT, OLD MAN!

IT'S SUBTLE, BUT...

...IT IS *SO* TASTY!

SO ANCIENT!

CARETAKER!

HE *CANNOT* DIE!

WE NEED HIM TO TELL US HOW TO FIND STACY AND YOUR FAMILY BEFORE MORE INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED!

TO BE CONCLUDED...

NEXT: AN ALL-OUT BRAWL!

GHOST RIDER TEAMS UP WITH BLAZE TO TAKE DOWN THE BROKER AND SCARECROW. DON'T MISS THE EPIC FINALE FOR DANNY KETCH AS HE ENACTS HIS VENGEANCE!

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